



**State Board of Education
Teacher Recruitment and Retention Blue Ribbon Commission
Member Information**

Business Leaders

Maxine Clark, Clayton, is the Founder of Build-A-Bear Workshop®, a teddy-bear themed retail-entertainment experience. In 2004, Build-A-Bear became a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange. Today, there are over 350 Build-A-Bear Workshop stores across the globe, and over 200 million stuffed animals have been sold worldwide. Build-A-Bear will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year.

Clark stepped down from her Chief Executive Bear position in 2013, and started her next act — to help unleash the potential of women and minority entrepreneurs and to use her entrepreneurial skills to create platforms and places that give access to more St. Louis families. Her latest venture is the Delmar DivINe™: the transformation of a neighborhood eyesore, the historic St. Luke's Hospital, into a multi-use real estate development, which opened in late 2021.

Clark is a Founding Managing Director of Prosper Women's Capital (a St. Louis based accelerator for women-led businesses), on the Board of Advisors of Lewis and Clark Ventures, and an advisor to the TxO Fund. Clark is a member of the Build-A-Bear Workshop Board of Directors and a recent past member of Footlocker, Inc. Board of Directors. Clark is also an Emeritus member of the Washington University Board of Trustees and serves as a board member for a number of other entities, including Barnes Jewish Hospital, Goldfarb School of Nursing, New America, and PBS National Nine PBS. In 2017, Clark was named to the Missouri Public Affairs Hall of Fame, and in 2015, was named Woman of the Year by the Greater Missouri Leadership Foundation.

Clark is a graduate of the University of Georgia. She also holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from St. Louis University, an Honorary Doctor in Human Letters from the University of Missouri St. Louis, and an Honorary Associates degree from St. Louis Community College.

Aaron Decker, Poplar Bluff, is a Vice President and Retail Lending Officer at Southern Bank. In this role, Decker oversees production of mortgage and consumer lending with an emphasis on policy adherence, compliance, and profitability. Before joining the banking industry, Decker served on the Poplar Bluff Police Department for 14 years. He then joined Southern Bank as an internal auditor, and then a loan officer, before settling into his current position. Decker is a graduate of both Three Rivers College and Southeast Missouri State University, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting. He continues to be an active supporter of Three Rivers College and is President of the Three Rivers College Athletics Booster Club.

Amy Estes, Rosebud, is the Regional Manager at Ayusa Global Youth Exchange. In this role, Estes is responsible for the supervision, ongoing training, and development of a team of 40-50 staff members across 11 states who directly support international exchange students in their host communities each year. Prior to joining Ayusa Global Youth Exchange, Estes was an elementary and middle school teacher for 20 years at Gasconade County R-2 Schools in Owensville. Estes and her husband were on the Young Farmers and Ranchers State Committee 2002-03. Estes also served on the Promotion and Education State Committee 2013-14, and as the South Director at Large since December 2015. Estes was the DESE STARR Teacher in 2001-03, the District Finalist Teacher of the Year in 2009 and 2010, and the District Inspirational Teacher in 2013 and 2016.

Kurt Hellweg, Springfield, serves as Chairman of the Board of International Dehydrated Foods, Inc., American Dehydrated Foods, Inc. ("ADF"), Food Ingredients Technology Company, LLC, and IsoNova Technologies, LLC — all privately held companies that manufacture and market ingredients for both the food and feed industries. Hellweg joined ADF in 1987, and has previously served as Vice President of Sales, Senior Vice President of Operations, and President/COO. Prior to joining ADF, Hellweg was an officer in the United States Navy from 1980-87. During that time, he served tours as a helicopter pilot flying a CH-46 in the Atlantic Fleet, and as a UH-1 instructor pilot. Hellweg holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the University of Nebraska. He is a past Board member of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Springfield Area Arts Council, and the Springfield Symphony, and has previously chaired the Greater Ozarks Chapter of the Young Professionals Organization.

Kathy Osborn, St. Louis, is President and CEO of the Regional Business Council (RBC) in St. Louis, Missouri. Osborn spearheaded the establishment of the RBC in 1999. The RBC is a consortium of presidents and chief executive officers representing 100 of the region's largest companies. The RBC's mission is to unite and engage members to act on high-impact business, civic, and philanthropic affairs for the betterment of the St. Louis region. Since its inception, the RBC has played a vital role in the region and is focused on numerous initiatives including public safety, talent development, diversity, equity and inclusion, education reform, quality of life, and workforce development.

Prior to serving in her current position, Osborn was Vice Chancellor of University Relations at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she oversaw several major mergers, collaborations, and partnerships. Osborn also led the establishment of the Des Les Collaboration Vision, which brought together key educational, cultural, governmental, and social service institutions to establish programs and share resources that benefit the St. Louis community.

Osborn is very active within the St. Louis community and serves on a variety of business and civic boards, including the following: BJC Healthcare Community Benefit Committee, the St. Louis Sports Commission, the St. Louis Police Foundation, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the United Way of Greater St. Louis, Concordance Academy, and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. In addition, she is a member of the St. Louis Lambert International Airport Commission and is Board Member Emeritus of Forest Park Forever.

Osborn has received a host of distinguished awards, including the 2018 Citizen of the Year; the United Way of Greater St. Louis Freeman-Kortkamp Award in 2018; the KIPP: St. Louis Champion of Education Award in 2018; the Urban League's 2016 Chairman's Award; the Gateway Center for Giving's Excellence in Partnership Award in 2016; the NAACP's Frankie Muse Freeman Commitment to Regionalism Award in 2016; an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Lindenwood University; the 2012 Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year; the St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Business

Women and the Most Influential St. Louisan designation in 2004 and 2011, respectively; the SLU Civic Award in 2013; the University of Missouri-St. Louis Distinguished Alumni Award in 2000; the 1999 University of Missouri Presidential Citation for Alumni Service; YWCA's Women of Achievement Award in 1998; the Links Excellence in Service Award for Outstanding Women Leaders in 2009; Hellenic Spirit Athena Award in 2009; the University of Missouri-St. Louis Woman Trailblazer Award in 1997; the 1997 John Berry Meachum Award; and the 1998 University of Missouri-St. Louis School of Education Distinguished Alumna Award.

Osborn received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. In addition, she earned a postgraduate certificate from the Institute for Education Management at Harvard University.

Keith Pritchard, Waynesville, is Chairman of the Board of Security Bank of Pulaski County. Pritchard's memberships and other affiliations include the State of Missouri Association of the U.S. Army Chapter President; member of the Mid-Missouri Association of United States Army; Chairman, Committee of Fifty, Ft. Leonard Wood Support Group; Treasurer, Friends Concerned for Ft. Leonard Woods' Future; member, Statewide BRAC Support Group in 1991, 1993, and 1995; member, Lake Ozarks Council of Local Governments; member, Small Business Administration 504 Loan Board; Director, Pulaski County Ambulance District; Director, Kinderhook Regional Libraries; President, Bank Administration Institute, South Central Missouri Chapter; Director, Waynesville-St. Robert Chamber of Commerce; member, Pulaski County Board of Realtors; and Director, Ozarks Council Boy Scouts of America.

Pritchard received the Army Engineer Association Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal; Col. Edward Owsley Superior Service Medal, AUSA Mid Missouri Chapter; Department of the Army Commanders Award for Public Service; US Army War College National Security Seminar; Sam Walton Business Leader Award; and Waynesville-St. Robert Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

Pritchard received his Bachelor of Science in Agri-Business from Northwest Missouri State University. He then attended Louisiana State University, completing Graduate School of Banking of the South.

Dred Scott, Kansas City, has been devoted to serving youth throughout his more than 20-year career. Scott has served as an educator, principal, and Executive Director of Support Services. Most recently, Scott served as Deputy Superintendent for the Independence School District. Scott also serves on the Truman Medical Center Board of Trustees, the Drumm Farm Center for Children Board of Directors, the Jackson County Children's Community Services Fund Board of Directors, and the Community Services League Board of Directors.

Scott is currently the President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City. In this role, Scott brings an increased level of leadership on the Club's current educational priorities toward assuring Club members' success in this critical area. His experience, vision, passion, and leadership in youth development are a great match for Boys and Girls Clubs kids, staff, and increased community partnership.

Ruth Stricklen Pullins, Kansas City, is the Chief Human Resources Officer for University Health. In this role, Pullins builds strategy around enhanced employee engagement, investing in corporate culture, and inspiring University Health's 4,500 employees.

In addition, Pullins serves as strategic partner to the CEO regarding all Human Resources areas and is the chief negotiator and spokesperson for the organization in all labor management issues. Pullins creates solutions for building future leaders and reinvigorating current leaders. She advances University Health's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and works to establish a collaborative and high integrity culture.

Prior to this role, Pullins was the Chief Human Resources Officer and Plan Administrator for the University of Kansas Physicians. In this position, she had oversight of organizational and employee development, communication and strategy, pension, and employee benefits. Pullins also collaborated with the physician practices in public relations and marketing initiatives.

Pullins has a graduate degree in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas and is pursuing a doctorate degree at New York University (expected May 2023). She holds certifications from the Human Resources Certification Institute and the Society of Human Resource Management as a senior professional, and as a labor relations professional from the National Public Employer Labor Relations Association. Pullins is a New York University-certified executive coach.

Pullins currently serves on the foundation board for Metropolitan Community Colleges, and the Board of Directors for Early Start of Kansas City. She formerly served on the Board of Western Governors University.

Pullins was named to the national HR Executive's HR Honor Roll in 2019. The Kansas City Business Journal lists Pullins as "20 people you should know in Kansas City."

Mark Walker, Springfield, was named Chairman and CEO of TransLand in April 2013. TransLand is a Springfield, Missouri-based trucking company founded by Walker's parents in 1982. Today, its fleet of 180 trucks and team of 230 employees serve customers throughout the continental United States with dry van, flatbed, and brokerage transportation services. Walker's business career includes five years of international leadership of corporate social responsibility, corporate philanthropy, and employee engagement functions as Managing Director of Global Community Affairs at Applied Materials; he also served as Executive Director of the Applied Materials Foundation headquartered in Santa Clara, California. Prior to joining Applied Materials, Walker served as President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way Silicon Valley in San Jose, California, where for six years he was responsible for transforming the organization with new strategic focus areas that integrated with United Way of America's new approach. Walker also had a 23-year career with SBC Communications (AT&T), working in both Missouri and California.

Walker received degrees in Business Administration and Economics from Drury University in 1979. His post-graduate work includes Harvard University's executive program, Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management.

Walker's passion for community service has been an important part of his professional career. His current board service roles include Drury University Board of Trustees where he serves on the Executive Committee and chairs the Master Plan Implementation Committee. He also serves on the Board of Directors for National CASA, based in Seattle, Washington. He remains active as a board member and is a past chairperson of the Missouri Trucking Association. Walker serves on the Board of Directors as Vice President of Care to Learn, a nonprofit company based in Springfield, Missouri. He has also served 30+ years as a Rotarian.

Each of the past five years, Walker was named to 417 Biz magazine's Biz 100. Walker was recognized by the Springfield Business Journal as the Top Local Executive in 2017, and was named Rotary Volunteer of the Year in 2021 by the Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast.

Bob Wollenman, St. Joseph, is the Managing Partner of Deluxe Truck Stop in St. Joseph, which has been in operation for 43 years. Wollenman is a 1972 graduate of Missouri Western State University. Wollenman currently serves on the Missouri Western State University Board of Governors. He also serves on the Foundation Board at Missouri Western State University and as Treasurer of the South St. Joseph Industrial Sewer District. Wollenman is a member of the Board of Directors for Progressive Community Services, an organization that provides tools and resources to nearly 1,024 people with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Buchanan County each year. Wollenman is Treasurer of the Kansas City Automobile Museum, Chairman of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce Board Development Committee, and Vice Chairman of the National Association of Truck Stop Owners Foundation (NATSO). Wollenman was also the NATSO Board Chairman in 2019, and has previously served with the United Way of Greater St Joseph, the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, the National Council of Corvette Clubs, and Hillcrest Transitional Living, now known as Pivotal Point of Buchanan County.

Legislators

Senator Lauren Arthur was elected to represent the constituents of the 17th Senatorial District in the Missouri Senate during a special election on June 5, 2018.

Prior to her time in the Missouri Senate, Sen. Arthur served four years in the Missouri House of Representatives, where she served as the ranking minority member on the Health and Mental Health Policy Committee, while also serving on the Administration and Accounts and General Laws Committees. During her tenure, Sen. Arthur also served on the Interim Committee on Stabilizing Missouri's Health Insurance Markets as well as the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia.

Senator Arthur grew up in the Northland. After graduating from North Kansas City High School's Baccalaureate program, Sen. Arthur received a scholarship to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

During her time at Smith, Sen. Arthur interned at the Smithsonian's American History Museum and the Scottish Parliament. She graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in History.

Senator Arthur returned home to Kansas City to join Teach for America. She worked as a middle school teacher. She taught English and Language Arts at Urban Community Leadership Academy, a charter school in the urban core. During that time, Sen. Arthur earned her master's in education from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. She also worked as a Project Manager at VML, a global advertising agency headquartered in Kansas City. She now serves as the Regional Director for Urban Leaders Fellowship, a program designed for early to mid-career professionals who are looking to accelerate their leadership abilities through a seven-week fellowship with a focus on policy and practice.

Senator Arthur currently lives in Kansas City, MO. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Russell, and their dog, Odie.

Representative Ingrid Burnett, Democrat, represents the Northeast area of Kansas City, and parts of Sugar Creek, Independence, and Jackson County (District 19) in the Missouri House of Representatives. She was elected to her first two-year term in November 2016.

In addition to her legislative duties, Rep. Burnett has worked as an educator since 1979. During her 37 years in the education field Rep. Burnett worked as a counselor, teacher, and principal in the Catholic and Independence Public School Systems. Rep. Burnett served on the Kansas City Public School District School Board, the Greater Kansas City United Way Board of Directors, the University of Missouri Extension Council in Jackson County, and has served as Jackson County Democratic Committeewoman for Ward 11 since 2002.

Rep. Burnett was born in St. Louis, and graduated from Webster Groves High school in 1971. She received her bachelor's degree in music education/music therapy from the University of Missouri – Kansas City in 1979, and in 1998, a Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from Avila University in Kansas City. Representative Burnett has lifetime certification to teach elementary and secondary music and as an elementary school counselor in the State of Missouri.

Residents of the Historic Northeast area of Kansas City for more than 35 years, Rep. Burnett and her husband John raised three children and take great delight in visits from their five grandchildren.

Senator Cindy O'Laughlin was sworn into office on Jan. 9, 2019, to serve the residents of Northeast Missouri's 18th Senatorial District.

In addition to her public service, Sen. O'Laughlin has served as vice president of Leo O'Laughlin, Inc., for the past 26 years. The senator and her husband own and operate a trucking company and ready mix concrete business with locations in Shelbina, Macon, Marceline and LaBelle.

Prior to being elected to the Missouri Senate, Sen. O'Laughlin served as a school bus driver, an administrator at a local Christian school, and as a member of her local school board. Now, Sen. O'Laughlin serves as the chair of the Senate Education Committee and works to improve education outcomes for all of Missouri's children, regardless of where they live.

Senator O'Laughlin has been a member of various civic organizations, such as the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Shelby County Economic Development Board. She has also served on numerous statewide boards, such as the Associated Builders and Contractors and the Missouri Club for Growth. Senator O'Laughlin is currently a member of the National Rifle Association, Missouri Cattlemen, the Missouri Farm Bureau and Macon First Baptist Church.

Senator O'Laughlin grew up on a farm and spent much of her childhood around horses, livestock auctions, and corn fields. Today, she's the proud owner of several dogs, including Basset Hounds, as well as several rescue dogs.

A current resident of Shelbina, Sen. O'Laughlin has four sons, a foster daughter, and six grandchildren. She is a 1978 graduate of the University of Missouri.

Representative Brad Pollitt, a Republican, represents parts of Johnson and Pettis Counties (District 52) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2018.

In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Pollitt is the owner and operator of Rocher P. Cattle Company LLC. He previously worked as an educator and administrator for 34 years. Pollitt served as a teacher and coach in North Shelby and Sedalia, a principal in Smithton, assistant superintendent in Knob Noster, and superintendent in Sedalia.

He is a member of the B&G Club, Rotary Club, Pachyderm Club, Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Farm Bureau, National Rifle Association, and the Sedalia Chamber of Commerce. Rep. Pollitt has also been active in working with other community leaders to address local military needs at Whiteman Air Force Base, which is located in his district.

Rep. Pollitt was recognized as Girls Basketball Missouri Coach of the Year in 1990 after winning a state championship. In 2017, while he was superintendent in Sedalia, the Sedalia School District was selected by the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education as a model district and tasked with implementing a new educational initiative to improve student outcomes.

Rep. Pollitt received his bachelor's degree from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State) and his master's in education from William Woods University. He also received an educational specialist certificate from the University of Central Missouri.

Rep. Pollitt resides in Sedalia with his wife, Danette. They have three children: Kevin, Whitney, and Brianna. They attend Maplewood Church in Sedalia.

State Board of Education

Kim Bailey, Raymore, was appointed to the Missouri State Board of Education in August 2018, and most recently served as President of the Raymore-Peculiar R-II School Board. She is a licensed mental health professional and trauma specialist, and is an approved supervisor through the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. From 2008-15, Bailey served as the Dean of Women for Calvary Bible College and Theological Seminary in Kansas City and has since worked as a private practice therapist in Raymore. Bailey earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She holds a master's degree from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas.

Donald Claycomb, Linn, was appointed to the Missouri State Board of Education in August 2018. He retired as President of State Technical College of Missouri in June 2016. His background also includes work with the State Council on Vocational Education and the educator preparation program at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Claycomb was the founding teacher of the agriculture program at Trenton Junior College and taught high school agriculture. In 2015, Claycomb was selected as a DESE "Pioneer in Education," an honor bestowed upon individuals who have made significant contributions to education in the state of Missouri. Claycomb earned his bachelor's degree and his doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He holds a master's degree from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville.

Mary Schrag, West Plains, was appointed to the Missouri State Board of Education in March 2019. Schrag currently works as the Owner and Chief Executive Operator of Physical Therapy Specialists Clinic, Inc. in West Plains. She serves as Project Director for SOARHigh, an ongoing project that works with select students in the areas of nutrition, physical education, and social-emotional wellness.

Schrag served on the Advisory Commission for Professional Physical Therapists for the Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts from 1989-2002. She served on the Missouri State University Board of Governors from 2002-11, and is a current member of a local workforce investment board. Schrag holds a Bachelor of Arts in biology and psychology from Drury University and a Bachelor of Science in health-related professions from the University of Missouri.

Governor's Office

Jamie Birch, Ashland, currently serves as Governor Parson's Deputy Policy Director. In this role, she manages a wide portfolio of policy areas that span all state government agencies. Prior to joining the Governor's Office, Birch was the Legislative Director for the Missouri Public Service Commission, where she oversaw and directed the organization's government relations program. Birch also served as Arizona Governor Janice K. Brewer's Policy Advisor for two years.

Birch devotes much of her free time to volunteering for Cinderella's Closet of Mid-Missouri and the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition. She is a former member of the International City and County Managers Association, the Arizona City and County Managers Association, CeCe's Hope Center, and the State of Arizona Naturopathic Physicians Medical Board.

Birch earned an Associates in General Studies from Chandler Gilbert Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Arizona State University, and a Master's in Public Administration from University of Missouri.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

Paul Katnik, Jefferson City, is the Assistant Commissioner in DESE's Office of Educator Quality. Katnik has been in education for over three decades, working with children of all ages, K-12, as both a teacher and principal. He has served at DESE for over 10 years, and has been instrumental in coordinating the state model Educator Evaluation System, revising teacher and leader preparation programs, developing the state's Educator Equity Plan, and creating the Missouri Leadership Development System. Katnik earned his Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Texas Tech University and his Masters in Educational Psychology from University of Mississippi. He also received his Doctorate from University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Educators

Darrion Cockrell, St. Louis, was Missouri's 2021 Teacher of the Year and the NEA's 2021 Horace Mann Friend of Education award winner. Cockrell teaches physical education at Crestwood Elementary School in the Lindbergh School District in St. Louis, Missouri. Cockrell is a role model for his students, and focuses on creating relationships that support the importance of staying active and healthy. He is always willing to lend a helping hand, inspires his fellow teachers, and motivates everyone at Crestwood. Cockrell created the "Crest-Fit" training program, reaching thousands of people over multiple platforms.

Cockrell received a 2020 National Box Tops for Education Twilight Award from Chance the Rapper. Other awards include being named both the Lindbergh and Crestwood 2020 Teacher of the Year, receiving the 2020 Emerson's Excellence in Teaching Award, and the 2022 California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence.

Cockrell earned a Bachelor of Science in Education/Physical Education and a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Misty Grandel, Fordland, was Missouri's 2020 Teacher of the Year. Grandel has always believed she has one purpose in life: to teach kids. Grandel wholeheartedly believes all students deserve a fair opportunity to learn and succeed, no matter their situation or background. Her goal is to relate to the individual student and to find a way to support the educational success of each child. Through highly engaging projects, real-world connections, and equitable initiatives, Grandel allows students to self-discover in an effort to create a learning environment in which students can blossom into their best selves. She also chooses to support the teaching profession through advocating for teacher voice and leadership, educator benefits, and equity throughout the field of education. Grandel currently teaches Language Arts at Fordland High School.

In the Fordland R-III School District, Grandel is the Professional Learning Community Leader, English Language Arts Department Chair, English Language Arts Curriculum Trainer, Advanced Placement Team Leader, and Superintendent's Leadership Team Member. She was a previous Career Ladder Committee Chair, T.A.S.K. (Teachers for the Academic Success of Kids) Committee Chair, ACT Testing Supervisor, Principal's Leadership Team Member, Professional Development Committee Member, and New Teacher Training Director.

Grandel received a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Spanish and her Masters of Arts in Strategic Communication from Drury University.

School Leader

Rhonda Gilstrap, Blue Springs, has a strong and proven record of providing passionate and effective leadership and advocacy for a public education system that prepares all children for their future. Gilstrap was first elected to the Blue Springs School District Board of Education in 2004, where she currently serves as President.

Gilstrap is an extraordinary leader who is recognized for her leadership skills, as evidenced by her election to the Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA) Board of Directors in 2011. Since joining the MSBA Board of Directors, Gilstrap has served in multiple leadership roles, including former MSBA President. Gilstrap has served on and chaired several education committees on behalf of MSBA, including Governance, Advocacy, Nominating, and Regional Executive Chair. She understands how to build bridges and how collaboration can advance issues that improve outcomes for students. Gilstrap is especially knowledgeable about research related to at-risk children and what factors can help stop the cycle of poverty and poor achievement.

Gilstrap is an effective advocate and is recognized as a credible spokesperson for local school governance and for the needs of all students. In Missouri, she has been instrumental in advancing positive legislation for our public schools.

Gilstrap is a community-oriented individual with a global focus. She understands the value and necessity of measurable outcomes in assessment of student achievement. She is a realist who holds a deep and sincere regard for the rights of all children to achieve and aspire at their own capacity. Her devotion to these ideals helps pave the road to a promising future of education for every student in this country.